(c) whether the work of project has also come to halt;

(d) if so, since when; and

(e) what is the future strategy of Government to save the project?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) As per information provided by the Project Authority, the financial institutions with which the Jammu & Kashmir State Power Development Corporation has made arrangements for funding the Baglihar Project have at no point of time stopped or backed out from funding of the project.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Various works are under progress.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Fall in ground water table in Delhi

†1610. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any enquiry into the reasons for falling ground water table in the country particularly in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the efforts Government have made to check the fall in water table and the results achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) and (b) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the administrative control of the Ministry of Water Resources, monitors ground water levels in the country including Delhi.It also undertakes integrated ground water management studies at regular time intervals to study the changes in ground water regime of an area and find out reasons for any such changes. The reasons attributed to fall in ground water levels in the country are over-exploitation of ground water, successive failure or deficient monsoon and reduced natural recharge to the aquifers due to rapid pace of urbanization.

The long-term trend analysis of ground water level in NCT of Delhi has indicated significant fall in districts of South, South West, New Delhi, West, North West, East and North East. The reasons for this decline are over-exploitation of ground water, reduced natural recharge because of urbanization, reduction in percolation rate of rainfall recharge because of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

deeper water levels and limited availability of ground water in fractured zones.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) "Water" being a State subject, it s primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to make efforts to check fall in ground water table in their respective States. However, Central Government has adopted the following measures to remedy the situation:-

(i) During the Ninth Plan, CGWB have implemented sucessfully artifically recharge projects under the Central Sector Scheme for "Study of Recharge to Ground Water" in 27 States/UTs in the country. In NCT of Delhi, 16 projects were implemented under the above scheme. Impact assessement studies in respect of these projects have shown encouraging results including raise in water in some areas.

(ii) Constitution of a Central Ground Water Authority under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for regulation and control of ground water management and development. The Authority has notified 20 'over-exploited' and 'critical' areas to regulate development of ground water resources in the country which include such areas in NCT of Delhi.

(iii) Circulation of a Model Bill in the year 1970, which was re-circulated in 1992 and again in 1996 to all the States/Union Territories to enable them to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development. A revised Model Bill, 2005 to regulate and control the development and management of ground water has been again circulated to all the States/Union Territories. So far Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Goa, Tamil Nadu, Lakshadweep, Pondicherry and West Bengal have enacted legislations on the lines of Model Bill.

(iv) Circulation of Manual/Guidelines on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to check the declining trend of ground water levels.

(v) Organisation of mass awareness programmes and training courses on rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge of ground water. The Government of NCT of Delhi has also participated in many National and International Workshops/Trade Fairs by setting up stalls on rain water harvesting to educate the masses

about the importance of rain water harvesting and artificial recharge.

(vi) All the States/UTs have been requested to provide water harvesting structures in buildings under their administrative control. In addition, Central Ministries/Departments of Railways, Defence, Posts. Telecommunications, Central Public Works Department and National Highways Authority of India have been requested to provide roof top rain water harvesting structures in the building under their control. Response from the States/UTs viz. NCT. of Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Nagaland, West Bengal, Meghalaya and Daman & Diu is positive.

(vii) CGWB has provided technical guidance on rain water harvesting to more than 2500 agencies, including State Government agencies, educational institutions, private entrepreneurs and individuals including in NCT of Delhi.

(viii) The Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation, Government of India have amended Building Bye-laws, 1983, making provision for water harvesting through storing of water run-off including rain water in all new buildings on plots of 100 square meter and above in Delhi mandatory. Similarly, State Governments of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Rajasthan, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Jaipur and Ludhiana Municipal Corporations have made roof top rain water harvesting mandatory in specified cases amending building bye-laws.

(ix) the CGWB has also prepared a report entitled "Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water", which envisages recharge of 36453 Million Cubic Meter volume of surplus monsoon runoff, through construction of 39.25 lakhs artificial recharge and roof top rain water harvesting structures.

(x) Directions have been issued to Group Housing Societies, Institutes, Hotels, Industries, Farm Houses, etc., in the notified areas of Delhi, Faridabad, Gurgaon and Ghaziabad and other areas of NCT Delhi, where ground water table is below 8 metres from ground surface, to adopt rain water harvesting system.

In addition to above, the Government of NCT Delhi has started 'Jal Bhagidari' scheme in December, 2002 to promote rain water harvesting for augmentation of ground water recharge under which financial assistance to the extent of Rs.50,000/- or 50% of the cost of the project is being given to registered RWAs/Co-operative Group Housing Societies/Schools/ Educational Institutions and NGO buildings. They have so far approved financial assistance to 128 projects out of which assistance to 90 projects have already been released.

Lift irrigation projects in Andhra Pradesh

1611. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether grants are being given by Government to the States for lift irrigation schemes run by marginal farmers and farming groups;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the assistance provided to the State Governments during the last three years, State-wise particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the details of amount sanctioned for lift irrigation projects in Andhra Pradesh during the last two years; and

(d) the details of the status of implementation of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) and (b) There is no specific scheme of the Ministry of Water Resources for providing grants for lift irrigation schemes run by marginal farmers and farming groups. However, grants to the State Governments are considered for completion of minor irrigation schemes as per the approved guidelines under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Availability of water for agricultural production

†1612. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the agricultural production rate has been decreased in many States in the country due to shortage of water availability;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.